

Topics of the Times

When the umbrella trust is turned inside out may be we all can afford to buy umbrellas.

If the Japanese should take San Francisco there is a probability that they would soon want to return it.

"The crop of children is the best crop of the nation," says the President. And it is in no danger from the little green bug.

It takes more than an automobile to make a gentleman, but it is surprising how many counterfeits are in general circulation these days.

Mr. Roosevelt's remark that the best crop of all is the crop of children is probably all right, but nothing could be better than the crop of June brides' looks.

"Enter the Boo sisters—Peeka and Cari," says the New York Mail. Well, what's the matter with the others—Buga, Gaza, Ta and Bam? Don't discriminate.

The physician who says that most germs exist only in the imagination has in all probability been trying to read some of the late offerings in current fiction.

When two disagreeable people marry we are led to believe that Cupid has had the help of an invisible power in arranging matters in a way not to spoil two families.

Judge Holdom of Chicago, who likened the law in certain cases to a kimono because "it covered everything and touched nothing," might have added that both supplied an opportunity for redress.

A green monkey was born in one of the New York "zoos" the other day, and a Massachusetts man claims that he has captured a white robin. Have the animals and birds themselves become nature fakers?

A Kansas paper remarks that the altitudinous price of bacon is not accounted for by any noticeable absence of hogs in the market. No, it is accounted for by the noticeable presence of hogs in the beef trust.

A Boston preacher announces that in eight years the reign of the devil will come to an end. This is important if true, and we could name several gentlemen who would like to know whose presidential administration Mr. Satan's reign is to end with.

When the Queen of Spain wishes to call her baby to her she does not say, "Alfonso Pio Cristino Eduardo Francisco Guillermo Carlos Enrique Eugenio Fernando Antonio Venancio, come here!" It would take too long to use all the twelve names given to him at his christening. It is probable that she simply says, "Oo tootsie, wootsie, darling little precious sweetkins, come to 'our own loving momsie womsie'!"

The Norwegian storting has passed a bill providing that women who acknowledge that they are more than 25 years of age and who pay taxes on an income of \$110 or more, or who are married to men who pay taxes on such incomes, may vote. In arranging it so that the women will merely have to confess to more than 25 years the storting has done one of the most gallant acts recorded in the history of civilization.

Citizens of Spokane propose that adjacent portions of Idaho, Washington and Oregon be reassembled into a new State to be called Lincoln. Advocates of the plan maintain that this division is the natural one, with respect to the geographic formation, and also to the interests and occupations of the people. Strong opposition comes naturally from people in parts of the three States not included in the proposed new State. The idea is doubly interesting at present when the feeling for State lines is said to be dissolving all over the country; it indicates that the sense of the State unit is very strong, and that it is a matter of deep importance to a man whether he lives in Oregon or "Lincoln."

Railway accidents have been usually ascribed to insufficient equipment. Prof. F. H. Dixon, in an article in the Atlantic Monthly, concludes that the real difficulty is not mechanical but human. It is not the failure or the lack of the block-signal that causes the trouble, nor would the installation of automatic stops and other devices cure the evil. "The fundamental weakness of American railroading from the standpoint of safety is the wide-spread and almost universal lack of discipline." This conclusion accords with

the experience of the race. Disciplined armies poorly equipped have triumphed over armies well accoutered and provisioned, but lacking in discipline. It is likely, however, that railroad employees will point out at once the lack of discipline begins in the poor generalship of the managers who demand impossible things of their soldiers.

A tramp does not tramp, he rides. This is one of the facts brought out by O. F. Lewis of New York in a paper read by him at the national conference of charities and correction at Minneapolis. Railroads are infested by tramps. The railroad is the victim of the shortsighted policy of local magistrates, and, in return, not with revengeful intent but by a sort of poetic justice, is the chief purveyor of tramps to the towns along its way. A tramp is arrested for vagrancy. To escape the cost of his imprisonment the court releases him on condition that he leaves town within twenty-four hours. That means that he gets on the first freight train and moves on to the next town. As every town is engaged in passing its tramps along the supply is never ending. If local authorities were not indifferent to the proportions of the tramp evil and wilfully blind to the way in which it is perpetuated it could be ended. If every town sent to the rock pile every vagrant found within its borders the trouble would be ended immediately, and the expense would be no greater than that occasioned by the process of passing tramps along. Tramps steal as well as beg. They set fires carelessly and in revenge. They cost the town officially, and the citizens individually, and the heavy burden placed upon the railroads by tramps comes upon the community ultimately. In the first five years of the century American railroads killed 1,900 passengers, 16,243 employees, and 23,964 trespassers on trains or tracks, the majority of the latter being tramps. The fact that 4,000 tramps or some such number can be killed upon the railroads without diminishing the visible supply is a clue to the number of them. When a town is unwilling to pay the hospital expenses of a trespasser who is injured, but not killed, the railroad settles the bill, but the public does not escape. The maimed man is thenceforth a charge upon the community either as a beggar or in some public almshouse. In Europe it is as much an offense to trespass upon the railroad's right of way as it is to break the law in any other manner. The magistrates realize that it is for the public good to keep unauthorized persons from walking upon the tracks or riding upon trains. America is an easy-going country, but the time has come when this problem must be faced and settled. The tramp costs too much, considering that he is not a luxury, an ornament, or a necessity.

CHAMPION MARKSWOMAN.



MISS MADGE TELFORD.

Miss Madge Telford, the champion woman rifle shot of Australia, has recently defeated the crack markswomen in a championship match between the Commonwealth Ladies' Rifle Club and the women of the Bengal-Punjab Rifle Association. She is a member of the Commonwealth Ladies' Rifle Club, Melbourne, and has made the highest score yet achieved by any woman in that country. There is a movement looking toward bringing Miss Telford to the United States to contest for the world's championship with some of the crack shots among American markswomen.

No Way of Judging.

"What are the running expenses of your army?" asked one South American ruler of another.

"Oh, I don't know," replied the one addressed. "The army hasn't had a chance to run for a long time now."—Yonkers Statesman.

No Difference in Sound.

The difference between a good and bad chauffeur is merely the difference between wreckless and reckless.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.



NATURE'S LAWS DIVERSIFIED BY MINGLING OF WATERS OF LAKE AND RIVER

Rewrite the ichthyology of America. Insert under the headings denoting the different species many new varieties unknown to former piscatorial lore. Add new subgenera and change the formation of varieties. For a great transformation in the fifth class of vertebrate animals has resulted from the digging of the Chicago drainage canal and the commingling of the lake's waters with those of the rivers. The digging of the channel across the great divide that once separated Lake Michigan from the Mississippi Valley has let the lake fish into the Des Plaines, the Illinois and the Mississippi rivers. The seeming unnatural commingling of waters has produced fishes that seem unnatural—that is, when compared to our present standards. New forms, new varieties, new types have appeared, differing in color, habits and general description from any other known to the American pisciculturist. Coexistent with the appearance of the new kinds of fishes there is noted a most remarkable increase generally in the number of the finny inhabitants of the Des Plaines and Illinois rivers. The Des Plaines River fairly swarms with fishes, and fishermen are reaping a harvest such as their fondest fancy never pictured in former times. All along the canal, and the Chicago River, and far down the Illinois River, the same conditions are noted to a greater or less extent. Ichthyologists have marvelled at the seeming phenomena, and from all sections of the country scientists are coming to study the conditions, to make note of the new forms and record them in the new history of American fishes, which now must undergo a complete revision. True, many dead fishes have appeared in the rivers, but all such show marks of violence and no evidence of disease. It is evident that a great warfare is going on among them over which families and species shall have the best right to make the river their future home.

With the increase in the number of the river fishes, there appears to be a corresponding increase in the number of Lake Michigan fishes. At least, all the lake fishermen are complaining, and the assertion is freely made that the lake's finny tribe are being emptied through the canal into the rivers beyond the Chicago divide. Formerly this divide formed a wall thirty miles wide between the lake and the river fishes, and the types inhabiting the two waters, generally speaking, were entirely separated and distinct. But when the canal was dug across the divide and the Chicago River was turned upside down, and instead of flowing into the lake was made to become an outlet of the lake and empty the lake's waters into the canal and thence into the Des Plaines and on into the Mississippi River near St. Louis, the lake's fishes have gone with the outflowing waters into the rivers, there to join the river fishes and compete with them in the struggle for existence. Thousands of these fishes, while being hurried on with the current, have been noted with the naked eye by boatmen and people standing on the banks of the river and canal. Sometimes the water seemed to be fairly alive with them, and fishermen, unable to resist the temptation, have defied the law, and, in nets, have hauled them to the shore in wagon loads. Lake trout and perch, never before caught outside of the lakes, have been brought to shore by thousands all along the canal and the Chicago and Des Plaines rivers. Lake herring, elcso grayling, chubs, lake trout, white fish and numerous other fishes, heretofore regarded as exclusive inhabitants of the great lakes, now swarm in the waters beyond the Chicago divide. White bass, pickerel and muscalonge have been found in goodly numbers, and two specimens of the Michigan grayling, heretofore found only in Lake Michigan and in the waters of Michigan State, have been caught.

Once they have crossed the bear-trap dam at Lockport, there is no way for any of these great swarms of fish to return to Lake Michigan, and they must make their home in the rivers beyond and fight for supremacy with the old inhabitants of these waters. It is probable that the conflict which will result in the survival of the fittest, will cause a weeding out of many of the types now abounding, and some of the river fish and some of the invaders from the lake will undoubtedly become annihilated. Indications are, however, that the general result will be most

beneficial to the lake fisheries. The infusion of new blood into the old river stock already seems to have added new life to the waters, and hence, while the fishes are fighting for supremacy, they are multiplying enormously, and the splendid specimens of all the varieties this season show that the health and general physical condition have been greatly improved. The fish feed upon each other, and it appears that none of the deaths have resulted from other causes than violence. The season has afforded unprecedented sport for those searching for game fish. Old-time sportsmen have turned their attention from the northern lakes to the Illinois rivers and neighboring lakes. For the small lakes all along the rivers show the same wonderful increase in piscatorial population.

Complaints of the alleged effects on Lake Michigan fisheries at first were ridiculed by the drainage canal trustees, but they have become so numerous that these officials have been forced to take cognizance of them. The river's gain is Lake Michigan's loss, it is declared, and how to prevent the exodus of lake fish is a problem that the sanitary trustees are now wrestling with. So far, the only solution of the problem that has been suggested is the building of fishways at all the dams and locks along the artificial water route. But this, it is feared, would weaken the dams, and it is doubtful if it would be possible to construct them in a manner that would permit the fish to make their way back to Lake Michigan, once they had wandered so far away as the Illinois River. Two methods of constructing the fishways have been proposed—one consisting of what is known as a fish ladder, which would consist of a series of steps, over which the water in descending would turn the fall into a cascade, and thus permit the fish to climb back in pursuing their return journey to the lake; the other comprising a chute with a sinus track for diminishing the velocity and assisting the passage of the fish to the level above the dam. Because of the nature of the locks and dams, their width and number, it is doubted if this device would prove successful, even if the construction did not interfere so materially with the mechanical operations.

The appearance of the new types of fish, entirely different from anything recorded by former naturalists, has stirred up the scientists, and the heretofore despised Des Plaines River has come into prominence as the center of piscatorial interest, for it is here that the new types and increased number of fishes have attracted widespread attention.

The strange and new types of fishes, never noticed to any great extent until this year, are undoubtedly the result of the intercrossing that came about after the invaders from the lake had accustomed themselves to the new environments. On finding it impossible to make their way back to the lake, they settled down to make the best of their life in the narrow confines of the rivers and accept the condition of miscegenation with the river fishes as the

best for all concerned.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

HOW TO REDUCE THE FLESH.

Increasing the Lung Capacity Is the First Requisite.

To increase the lung capacity is the first step in the reduction of flesh, says Outing. For this purpose running is, I think, superior to any other exercise. Boxing and handball are also excellent for the "wind." And these exercises will do more to increase the respiratory functions; they will greatly stimulate the circulation as well as all the secretory and excretory processes. What leg exercise will not do, however, is oxidize, to any great extent, the soft tissues of the trunk and arms. True, by stimulating the organs of elimination and by increasing lung capacity, leg exercises will oxidize upper tissues somewhat; but when fat is not replaced by muscle, it has a strong tendency to reform.

A bad effect of leg exercises exclusively is that they draw a major part of the blood, rich in oxygen, to the lower limbs; whereas if vigorous arm and trunk exercises were executed, beside the leg exercises, much blood would be attracted also to the upper parts which would then be oxidized to the best advantage, their lost fat being, at the same time, replaced by solid tissue, and hence having little tendency to reform. Running, therefore, splendid exercise though it is, should be supplemented by vigorous "upper" exercises. By vigorous upper exercises I do not mean calisthenics nor any kind of so-called light exercises; I mean reasonably hard work.

Making Base Ball Bats.

What becomes of all the baseball bats? Is quite like the old inquiry of "What becomes of all the pins?" At any rate, big factories are running all the year round, turning out nothing but bats. When one considers the 10,000,000 small boys in this country and that each one averages four bats during his early baseball days, the problem is reduced to figures which account for the demand, says Popular Mechanics. Bats are no longer whittled out of a piece of board, as was done forty years ago, but are made on machines which turn out their thousands daily.

The process is simple but slow. First the logs are cut into "bolts" of from thirty-two inches to forty-two inches long and the bolts sawed into billets two and a half inches or three inches square at the ends. Three years' seasoning is required for the best bats, either in the log or billet. The kind-drying process is rapid, but not considered as good. The billets are placed in an automatic lathe, which quickly transforms the stick into the graceful form of the bat.

The bat is then smoothed and polished by being held against a rapidly moving horizontal belt which is covered with sand. It is then ready for its coat of oil, varnish or paint, as the case may be.

Something Like Joshua.

A mountaineer of one of the back counties of North Carolina was arraigned with several others for illicit distilling. "Defendant," asked the court, "what is your name?"

"Joshua," was the reply.

"Are you the man who made the sun stand still?"

Quick as a flash came the answer: "No, sir; I am the man who made the moonshine."—Harper's Weekly.

The rich man and the mule are abused a great deal, but there continues to be a good demand for both.

THE SAME OLD STORY.



—Cincinnati Post.